

South Fork of the Forked Deer River

Conservation Opportunity Area



The South Fork of the Forked Deer River is comprised of the typical bottomland hardwood / wetland habitat found in West Tennessee, with some agricultural lands found near the river. This river system is the main drainage of the central portion of West Tennessee. Historically, much of the Forked Deer basin contained wetlands that were used by Native Americans and early settlers as hunting and fishing grounds. However, much of this area has been drained, and most of the tributaries of the Forked Deer have been channelized, impacting aquatic habitat structure, riparian vegetation, and water quality.

The bottomland hardwood / wetland areas found along the South Fork of the Forked Deer River are some of Tennessee's richest in biological diversity, with over 160 species. This area supports populations of nongame species such as Alligator Gar, Chickasaw Darter, Mississippi Kite, Barking Treefrog, and plant species such as the whorled sunflower. The Forked Deer River was also the site for three past species restoration projects (Alligator Gar, Mississippi Kite, and Alligator Snapping Turtle).

TWRA will consider future land acquisitions in this COA for watershed protection, critical habitat protection, habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, planting of bottomland hardwoods and warm season grasses, and planting buffer strips along the river to improve water quality. TWRA will also seek partnerships with other agencies and landowners to implement many of the management strategies on private lands within the COA.

Public Lands within the COA

Col. Forrest V. Durand Wetland, Fort Ridge Wetland, Jackson Sand Wetland, Perry Switch Wetland, Pinson Mounds State Park, South Fork Waterfowl Refuge



The South Fork of the Forked Deer River system is the main drainage of the central portion of West Tennessee.



Top to bottom: Rob Colvin, TWRA Biologist, with Alligator Snapping Turtle-Terry Moore, TWRA; Bald Cypress - Malcolm Manners/next page: Juvenile Mississippi Kite - duggar11

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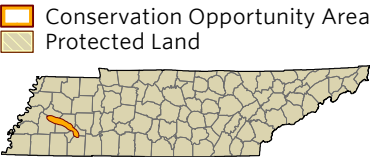
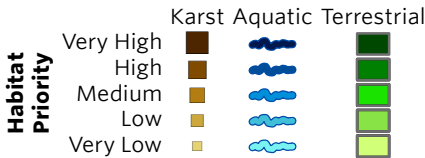
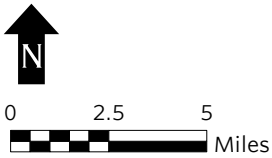
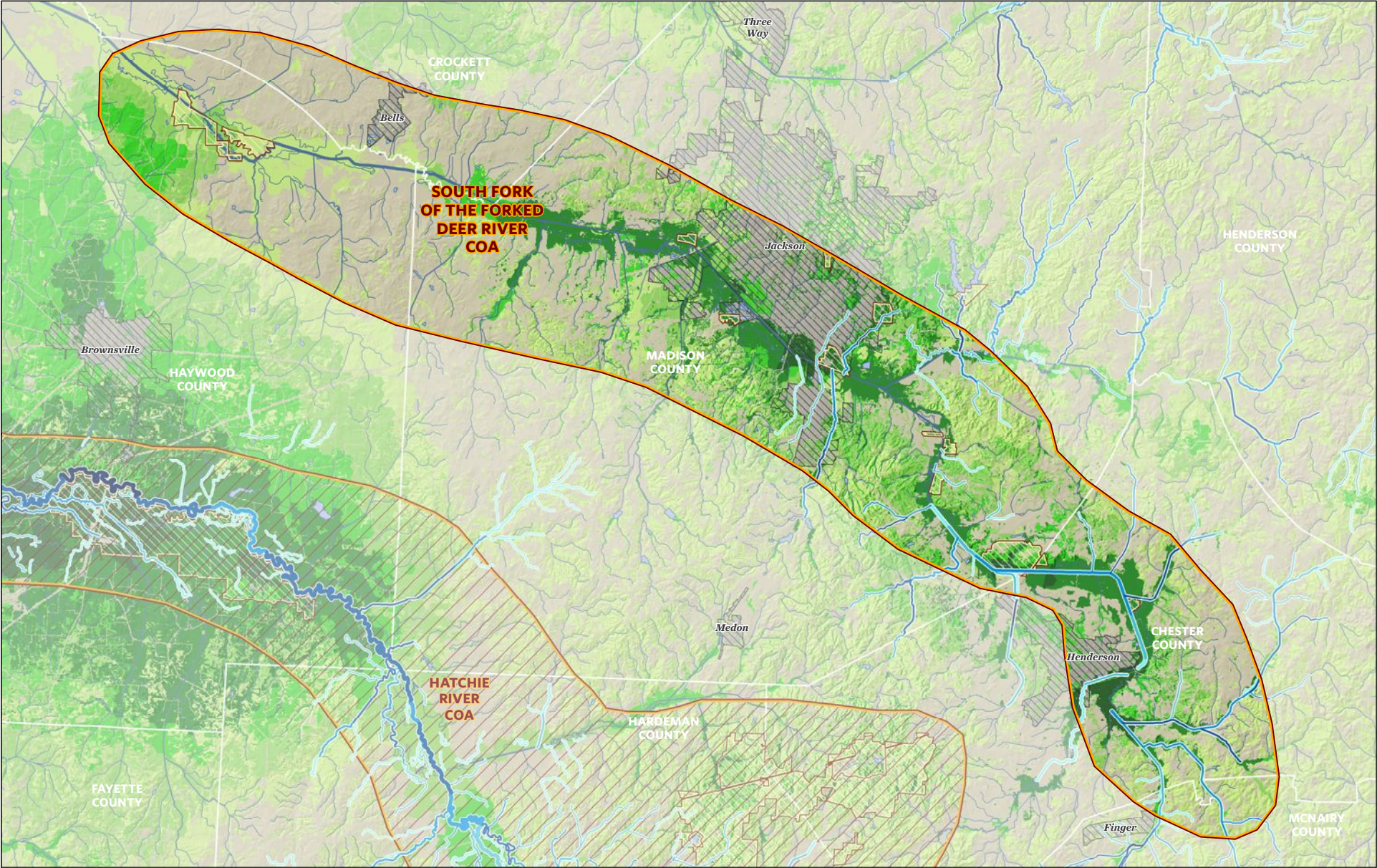
Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, UT Agricultural Extension, Cooperative Extensions, universities, various other institutions, and local governments.



Desired Change	Units
+ Increase the application of Best Management Practices to benefit GCN species and habitats on private lands using government funded incentive programs	number
+ Restore acres of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands.	acres
+ Restore river cane corridors.	acres
+ Create or improve buffers around tributaries to reduce sediment transfer and runoff of contaminants.	acres
+ Increase mudflat and moist soil habitat on wildlife refuges through enhanced water management to provide habitat for migrating birds and Mississippi kites	acres
✓ Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+ Encourage municipal and county governments to adopt zoning ordinances that limit or regulate development within critical units of aquatic, subterranean, and terrestrial habitats.	plans

To learn more about the South Fork of the Forked Deer River Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact: Rob Colvin, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 1 (731) 423-5725



SOUTH FORK OF THE FORKED DEER RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Amphibian	Ambystoma texanum (Smallmouth Salamander)
Amphibian	Hyla gratiosa (Barking Treefrog)
Amphibian	Siren intermedia (Lesser Siren)
Bat	Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Bat	Myotis austroriparius (Southeastern Bat)
Bat	Perimyotis subflavus (Tri-colored Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern)
Bird	Calidris himantopus (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Cistothorus platensis (Sedge Wren)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Grus americana (Whooping Crane)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Helmitheros vermivorum (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Limnithlypis swainsonii (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Parkesia motacilla (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Fish	Atractosteus spatula (Alligator Gar)
Fish	Etheostoma cervus (Chickasaw Darter)
Fish	Etheostoma pyrrhogaster (Firebelly Darter)
Plant	Helianthus verticillatus (Whorled Sunflower)
Plant	Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Reptile	Macrochelys temminckii (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster (Yellowbelly Water Snake)
Reptile	Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle)

SOUTH FORK OF THE FORKED DEER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	27809
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	4287
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Dry Upland Hardwood Forest	3086
East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest	641
South-Central Interior / Upper Coastal Plain Flatwoods	521
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	8
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	4551
Old Field / Successional	3845
Pasture	3553
Aquatic Habitat Type	Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Headwaters and Streams	38
Small River	7